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MONROE INSTITUTE RUMORS NOT TRUE

by Adam R. Stevens

For the past three years, TMI has provided an annual opportunity scholarship to a qualified and deserving Nelson County high school senior. The most recent recipient of this award is Adam R. Stevens, who is majoring in architecture at the University of Virginia. In this letter to the editor of the Nelson County Times, Adam validates the worth of our community involvement and makes telling points about the value of higher education.

Ignorance is the harbinger of misconception, and it is ignorance that has led the people of Nelson County to believe, for so many years, that The Monroe Institute has ill intentions or goals.

Ever since I first learned of the Institute, situated in Faber, I have heard everything from "They brainwash your kids," to "they do routine brain transplants." Due to these rumors over the years, people who don't know exactly what goes on "behind closed doors" there are automatically focused on a misconception of their own creating. I mean, come on... "routine brain transplants"?!

Well, I would like to set the record on balance here by telling you the truth about The Monroe Institute, in a very simplistic, concise manner. I say this because it is impossible for me to describe thoroughly to you what has taken years of research to develop.

The Monroe Institute does not "brainwash" its subjects nor will they give you a new brain. However, they do improve your mind and the relationship between mind and body. Projects at the Institute "have been able to induce and train subjects to learn conscious control of many different and productive states of consciousness other than typical wakefulness." This is a form of accelerated learning.

Even though I have been familiar with The Monroe Institute for only a few years, this year it has become an important factor in my life; not only have the staff there enlightened me to my potential, but they have provided me with the means by which to utilize this potential.

Every year, The Monroe Institute presents its Opportunity Scholarship Award to a graduating senior from Nelson County High School who plans to continue his education at an accredited four-year college. This year, I have had the privilege of receiving this most prestigious award. The scholarship is in the amount of \$2,500 per year and is annually renewable for three more years.

However, there is one stipulation. It is expected that the recipient maintain a 3.0 GPA in order to be eligible for renewal. This is obviously to prevent the recipient from forgetting the reason he is attending college—to receive a higher education.

I speak to you, the readers of the Nelson County Times, to tell you that The Monroe Institute is working hard to better the world we live in by unleashing the most powerful tool created—the human mind. Don't be afraid of the Institute. It's part of our community. Inquire. By giving this scholarship, they are trying to give to the community a fruitful future by the means of a well-educated youth.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone at The Monroe Institute for helping make my dreams of becoming an architect attainable and closer to reality. I would additionally like to extend my sincere appreciation to Robert A. Monroe, founder of the Institute, and to Dave Wallis, laboratory engineer and the man who was gracious enough to take time out of his busy schedule to give me a tour of the facilities, answer my questions, and was patient enough for my idling.

I am attending the University of Virginia School of Architecture this fall thanks to the generosity of The Monroe Institute.

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